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reveals a long, loving, and intimate association with the best Latin masters, which, when combined with sound critical sense, commends their literary judgments.

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GEORGE DWIGHT KELLOGG.

Thucydides, Book IV, Chapters I-XLI (Pylus and Sphacteria). Edited by J. H. E. Crees and J. C. Wordsworth. Cambridge: at the University Press (1919). Pp. xvi + 96.

In a brief Preface it is stated that this edition has been prepared for those who have not long been studying Greek and who have reached the stage of the "First School Examination". A vocabulary has therefore been added (72-96). The book contains also a map of Pylus and Sphacteria. The Introduction (ix-xv) deals with the life and work of Thucydides and the contents of his history, Book IV, Chapters I-XLI. Mr. Crees, author of the Introduction, writes enthusiastically of Thucydides as a historian. Thucydides's history, he says, "would at any time have been a great work, but for its date it is in its conception a marvellous achievement, and the expression of a person lity which compels respect". Thucydides necessarily, as a true Athenian, was a partisan, but he was none the less able to efface his partisanship and "achieved a monumental impartiality". Thucydides, the aristocrat, is so fair to Cleon that "the champions of Cleon must, and can base their championship on the evidence of Thucydides". There are 38 pages of notes to 33 of the Greek text. Yet, I suspect, in more than one place, the student who has not "long been studying Greek" would need more assistance than the authors give him toward the interpretation of the text. C. K.

A NOTE ON THE RED RAIN IN ILIAD 16.459

While listening recently to some lectures of Professor David M. Robinson on Homer, I was led to ask: Are the following passages of the Iliad merely the product of the poet's imagination or do they refer to real natural phenomena?

In Iliad 16.459 we read¹

She spoke nor did the sire of Gods and men
Unheeding hear, but poured down on the earth
Rain drops of blood, so honoring his dear son,
Him whom Patroclus was foredoomed to slay
In Troy's rich soil far from his native land.

In Iliad 11.54 we read:

Zeus roused an evil blare of war and sent
Down from high heaven his rain drops stained with
blood.

Again in Hesiod, Shield of Heracles 383-385, in a passage perhaps imitated from the above, we have:

Loud thundered Zeus, the counselor, flinging down
From heaven bloody rain drops, setting thus
A sign of battle to his great-souled son.

¹The translations are my own. So are the italics in the passages quoted.

In short, is there such a thing as red rain, apart from the effluvia of butterflies as suggested by Buchholz, Die Homerische Realien, 3.91, and is Homer justified in the use he makes of it? That there is and that Homer is better acquainted with and truer to nature than some of his critics is shown by the following note appended to certain verses of John Ruskin's Poem, The Broken Chain (Geo. Allen, Library Edition of John Ruskin, 2.177 [1903]). The verses are:

Like purple-rain at evening shed
On Sestri's cedar-darkened shore.

The note runs thus:

I never saw such a thing but once, on the mountains of Sestri in the Gulf of Genoa. The whole western half of the sky was one intense amber colour, the air crystalline and cloudless, the other half grey with drifting showers. At the instant of sunset, the whole mass of *rain* turned of a deep rose-colour, the consequent rainbow being not varied with the seven colours, but one broad belt of paler rose; the other tints being so delicate as to be overwhelmed by the crimson of the rain.

I have myself witnessed red rain in Chatham, Massachusetts, over Nantucket Sound. When one lives in the country and on the sea year in and year out, one acquires a wholesome respect for the observing powers of the classical poets, notably Homer. The phenomenon occurred at sunset, with drifting curtains of rain between the observer and the sun. These the red rays of the sinking orb shot through and through with deep crimson that faded and revived as the curtains of rain fell and succeeded one another. There was no rainbow, as the rain was between the observer and the sun, for one always sees a rainbow when he is between the rain and the sun (or the moon, in the case of a lunar rainbow, which is very rare), and of course the luminary cannot be very high in the heavens in either case.

Given such a phenomenon, Homer's application is obvious and justified, as the following quotations from Byron, Sardanapalus, and Turner, Fallacies of Hope, prove. In Byron, the Chaldean priest says of the sinking sun:

How *red* he glares amidst those deepening clouds,
Like the *blood he predicts*.

Turner's lines were over a picture of The Fall of Carthage:

While o'er the western wave the *ensanguined sun*
Is gathering huge a stormy signal spread,
And set *portentous*.

ROGERS FELLOW IN CLASSICS,
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CAROL WIGHT.

CICERO, CATILINAM 2.4, ITERUM

Utinam ille omnis secum suas copias eduxisset! Tongilium mihi eduxit, quem amare in praetexta coeperat; Publicium et Minucium, quorum aes alienum contractum in popina nullum rei publicae motum afferre poterat, reliquit. Quos viros! quanto aere alieno! quam valentis! quam nobilis!

Until Professor Herrouet endeavored, in THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY 14. 87, to refute my punctuation